1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
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137 country included within the juncture of the Gila and Salt Rivers. Indeed, this region was so choked with mesquite and other bushes as to be nearly impenetrable. For that reason, being at [648] the same time relatively near the Yavapai, it was dangerous territory. This was also the best region for fishing and abounded in 226 rabbits. Fish were taken mostly in Santa Cruz slough at the northern foot of the Sierra Estrella and at the Salt-Gila confluence. From there the Maricopa drifted up the Salt fishing and gathering to a point just above Phoenix, beyond which it was not safe to go. They did not fish much in the Gila. Family parties [594] went together, camping under the bushes. As the women went [222] out gathering mesquite beans, men would accompany them for [246] protection and to hunt jackrabbits. Camp was frequently shifted [361] as the bushes were stripped clean. It was also their habit to move back and forth between the Gila and Salt to foil any lurking enemies. It was customary to include the whole family on such expeditions, although younger children were ordinarily left home in the care of friends when women went out on a day's excursion.

WILD PLANT PRODUCTS

222 The chief interest in wild plant products lay in the mesquite beans and giant cactus (sahuaro) fruit. Other wild plants were more casually used: the following description includes the principal but is not exhaustive.

Mesquite furnished the plant staple. Two or three varieties of [824] the bush grew in this region: screw and straight bean mesquite, and a subvariety of the latter, differing from the common variety in its large thorns. (It is of interest that the straight bean and its bush bore separate names, iya′ and ana′l,: this was not true of the screw bean, i′ï′c, nor the long thorned bean, tŏtxaĕ′tk:) The straight bean variety was most plentiful. These bean pods were said to be softer than those growing in the old Halchidhoma country on the Colorado. Mesquite was gathered from early July to the end of August. Certain trees were known for large or sweet beans, but these were not private property. A group of [476] women would go gathering together for fear of the enemy; several men might be within reach.

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Parching with live coals in shallow bowls

252 [177] probably came into common use only after the introduction of wheat. Previously its use was primarily to prepare seeds and [263] beans for grinding. Salt (ẽs'ĭ') was little used in cooking. In fact, they had no true salt but scraped up saline or alkaline deposits [311] found near certain sloughs.[84] (Curiously enough, they say that commercial salt is bitter!)

264 Only two meals a day were served: morning and evening. The 512 morning meal was usually prepared at dawn, and when all had risen at sunrise, the family would eat. If a woman was seen preparing it after the sun had risen, they would call her lazy. Women were ordinarily away from home all day gathering foodstuffs. [857] Children who were left at home were expected to keep up the fire in order to have plenty of ashes on hand to roast with. Women had to spend a large part of their time grinding on the metate. They began preparing the evening meal in the middle of the afternoon: as soon as it was ready, they would eat it, that is, quite early, before sunset. This was the big meal of the day. (Breakfast and dinner had no special designations like ours.) There was no sort of grace before eating.

264 Women shared food. A woman would cook a large vessel full 476 of pumpkin, then go about the village gathering bowls from other women, and share out the pumpkin in these until all was gone. She then carried them to the owners, who in turn brought her something.

264 Men ordinarily ate first, morning or evening; then the women and children of the household. But if there were present visitors [577] of either sex, friends and relatives, of whatever status, they were served even before the men. It happened to be the general rule that women served their husbands first, but this was because most foodstuffs were vegetal. Actually whoever cooked served the others first. Thus, men prepared the small game they killed —rabbits, fish, quail—and served their wives first. That is, "they treated each other alike."

[84] The salt gathering expeditions of Papago and Pima, with self-purification, were not made by the Maricopa (Lumholtz, *New Trails*, p. 269; Russell, *Pima Indians*, p. 94).

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edition of the dwelling; an open-sided, flat-roofed shade; a small structure resembling a gable roof set directly on the ground, built as needed for a storage house, for purification rites, for a girl's puberty rite, and as a menstrual hut. A small hemispherical sweat lodge was also built. Sometimes a temporary kitchen was made by erecting a screen of weeds to windward of the cooking place.

Housebuilding was man's work alone, whether a dwelling, storehouse, or meeting house: the women did not assist. A man was helped by his male friends and relatives in the construction of his dwelling. In building a meeting house, all the men of the village were engaged and built it in a day.

Dwellings stood indefinitely, until some one of the inmates died, when they were torn down and burned. This also happened on the infrequent occasions when relatives who had married were mourned as dead. A new house was erected elsewhere, so that the community was constantly crawling away from its original location. So great was the decimation from disease and warfare during the past century, that the shifting went on with some rapidity despite the localizing ties of available water supply and tillage. The movement may have been somewhat less in earlier times, but there is no doubt that the habit of shifting the locus is old and ingrained. Houses did not suffer much from the elements; rainfall is slight and confined largely to the spring, snow practically never falls. The dirt covering of the house needs no renewal; at most, it must be patched here and there.

The size of the dwelling naturally depended on the number of inmates it was intended to house. An average dwelling was about eighteen to twenty feet in diameter, larger houses perhaps twenty-five feet: Bartlett (1852) says fifteen to twenty-five feet.[1] It was built on level ground, no excavation being made.

For the ordinary dwelling, four cottonwood posts were set in the ground at the corners of a square, measuring nine or ten feet. These stood as high as a man could reach, about seven or eight feet, so that he could work at the ridge. (It must be remembered that these people are quite tall.) Yet Bartlett wrote, "These

[1] Bartlett, *Personal Narrative*, II, 234.

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343 so low (only three or four feet above the ground level at the ridge) that the dirt, now banked around it and spread over the whole, held it firmly. The ridge pole ran east and west; the tiny entrance, through which one could just creep, was in the eastern gable-end. Logs piled one on another closed the opening. A man working alone took a month to build such a storehouse, but [476] friends or relatives usually helped. They were fed by him but not [251] otherwise paid. Melons, pumpkins, and similar foodstuffs were stored in these houses.

177 343 Modern storage houses are like those described by Bartlett in 1852. These are small rectangular houses, the walls consisting of stakes set close together and provided with a dirt-covered roof. The space between the wall stakes usually allows free circulation of air, but Bartlett remarks, "They are wattled with straw and rushes, and are sometimes covered with a thick layer of mud."[8] This has become the modern residential type.

343 257 295 While basket granaries were quite unlike these structures in construction, they stood so invariably as part of the house group that they should be described here. The granaries (sakwi'n) were huge nest-like affairs crudely coiled of bunches of arrowweed, one or more of which stood near every house. They were three to five feet in diameter, three to four feet high, depending, of course, on the amount of material to be stored. These were, strictly speaking, not baskets at all, since they lacked a bottom, but thick-walled, coiled cylinders. The process of their manufacture was [171] exactly that described by Kissell for the Pima.[9] Mrs. Redbird, who made a small granary for me as a model, used a base ring taken from an old granary, and wove counter-clockwise working on the outside of the near edge. They were woven by both men and women; those who did not know how, employed experts. These granaries lasted for years.

251 343 The granaries rested on a low platform or were half-buried: they were not placed on the roof as by the Pima. A crib-work was built to raise them off the ground a foot or more to keep the contents dry and away from rodents. This consisted of two short

[8] Bartlett, *Personal Narrative*, II, 234.

[9] Kissell, *Papago and Pima Basketry*, p. 178; see also Russell, *Pima Indians*, p. 144.

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dren: nevertheless, they would never think of using parent-child terms for one another. They would be horrified by the reference to the dead. Adoption of children was frequent because of the wars. Even distant relatives would take them. When the child was adult, he would look on his foster-parents as he would on true parents. They have a saying: "never abuse a child, because the day will come when you too will be [as] a child." Yet occasionally orphans and step-children were mistreated. Despite this sentiment, there was a curious detachment toward children. No one would wholly blame a woman for deserting her children if her husband had given her sufficient cause.

An illustrative incident dates from about 1840. There was a Kohuana woman of the Kohuana village at Gila Crossing whose husband had died. She had two little children, a boy of six and a girl of two. She decided that she wanted to live with her relatives still on the Colorado. She thought the little children could never travel that far afoot. So she prepared provisions for herself, sent the children off to play, merely telling them to wait for her, and stole off to join the group that was going. When she failed to return, the boy led his little sister by the hand from house to house, inquiring for her. At night he would take her into the meeting house and build a fire to keep warm. In the morning they would go to someone's house to be fed. They had no relatives there. The boy said, "If I have no relatives here, I will call you all ciyi',[65] strangers." The two were inseparable. People took care of them. When they were grown, he said, "I have taken the trouble to bring up my sister; now someone should take the trouble to marry her." Both have long been dead.

A brother and sister had the highest respect for each other; they would not use obscene words in the other's presence, for example. Yet I received the impression that this had none of the stringency of Crow custom,[66] but was rather our own middle-class attitude.

Relationship seems to have imposed an obligation to be at least friendly and helpful if needed. Today, relatives gather to till each other's fields, expecting no more than to be fed by their host, or they tend each other's children.

Something of this sentiment is reflected in the following tale. In the early days an American beaver hunter living west of the Gila Bend Mountains was friendly with the Maricopa. He had bags of dried beaver skins there. Some

[65] The use of this form (ciyi' instead of kiyi') indicates that he must have been addressing the women.

[66] Lowie, *Social Life of the Crow*, p. 214.

/82 cont./
000 cooking pots of many sizes.

From the Pima they also learned to weave cloth from
291 [177] native cotton. The dress of the women formerly consisted of a piece of this cloth wound around the body under the arms and reaching to the knees, with an outer shawl for cold weather.
[302] The men wore only the breech-cloth, but painted their bodies elaborately.

The Maricopa, of course, possessed the same wealth of
262 native vegetal and animal foods as the Pima, and employed the same methods of gathering and treating them. The fruit of the giant cactus, found in unlimited quantities, is still one of their important staples. This strange creation of the plant world blooms in early spring and ripens its fruit in June and July. Using a long
[222] pole with a wooden blade at the end, the women cut the fruit from the plant and carry it to the settlements in large baskets. The
[252] fruit is eaten fresh, dried, made into jelly, or preserved. They
273 also make quantities of wine from it, first boiling the fruit, then draining the juice into large jars, which are kept in a heated house for a week to ferment. A number of women, sometimes twenty-
[476] five or more, formerly joined in making wine, and when it was
[574] ready their neighbors were invited to a great feast, which always ended in a debauch. This deplorable custom, along with many of a commendable nature, was derived from the Pima.

241 The Maricopa are a sedentary, agricultural people. The
[252] principal crop of their small irrigated farms is wheat, which they
[412] grind into coarse flour on the metate, or hand mealing stone.
582 /83/ The little that remains of their former social organization indicates that it was identical with that of the Mohave. Nothing could be learned tending to show that under this system marriage within recognized groups of kindred was prohibited. The union
584 was without ceremony, and formal consent of the parents was not necessary; if they did not send the young man away, it was assumed that they were willing to accept him as a son-in-law.

[764] As among other Yuman tribes, the dead are burned. Within
765 a few days after the cremation of the body of an important man a mourning ceremony, called Nyimich, is observed. Fuel is heaped up to form a pyre, on which are placed pieces of clothing of each of the near relatives of the deceased. The men march around the pyre shouting and crying, followed by the women carrying